which has acquired considerable vested interests in the country, one by the merchants, traders and factory owners, and one by the non-official members of Town Improvement Committees. All adult persons, including women, have a place in the general electorate, the only qualification being the payment of an annual land revenue of not less than Rs. 25 or the possession of an annual income of not less than Rs. 2,000. All graduates of a recognised University, of not less than ten years' standing and having not less than five years' residence in the State, are also qualified to be voters. The three remaining non-official seats have been reserved by the Government for safeguarding the interests of unrepresented minorities. The rights of interpellation and budget discussion have been conferred upon the Council.

14. Central Prison.—The number of prisoners fell from 509 at the close of 1093 to 455 at the close of 1094, the average daily strength of convicted prisoners in 1094 decreasing from 527 to 455. The number of admissions of reconvicted prisoners declined from 192 to 185. That in a year of unprecedented scarcity and high prices there was only so much of serious crime is a matter for genuine satisfaction. The daily average of the sick fell from 6 to 3, and the number of admissions into the hospital from 129 to 102. The revised Jail Rules were brought into force and non-official visitors were appointed as provided for therein.

15. Courts.—In view of the volume of arrears pending in the High Court and in some of the District Courts, sanction has been accorded to the continuance of the temporary Additional Bench in the High Court and the temporary Second Judges' Courts at Nagercoil and Kottayam till the end of 1095. The Additional Munsiff's Court at Tiruvalla was transferred to Changanachery, and a temporary Additional Munsiff's Court was opened at Kottarakara to work up the arrears. Seeing that the six Village Panchayat Courts established in 1092 were turning out good work, the system was extended to the remaining thirteen municipal towns also with effect from the beginning of 1095. A Stationary Second Class Magistrate's Court has been established at Muvattupuzha.

16. Registration.—The compilation of a Manual of Registration, the revision of certain standing orders, and the issue of a code of instructions relating to the inspection work of District Registrars were undertaken by the Director of Registration during 1094. The institution of two departmental examinations was sanctioned by Government to ensure greater efficiency in the work of registration.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

17. Agriculture.—Copies of the report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1094 will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will obtain detailed information regarding the working of the Department during the year. The staff of the Department was strengthened by the appointment of a Mycologist who has already had his training in Europe. He is being deputed for a course of further training to the Imperial Research Institute at Pusa, so that he may be thoroughly equipped for dealing with the diseases of tropical crops. The soil survey of Nanchanad, the most important paddy-growing portion of the State, has been completed, and a bulletin on the subject will be soon published. From the experiments so far conducted at the punja experimental farm at Alleppey, it is seen that liming and thorough ploughing in the hot weather are beneficial to punja lands, and that, by the application of suitable manures, those lands may be made to yield a successful crop every year, instead of only in alternate years as at present. From a calculation recently made by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, he has come to the conclusion that, if Travancore should produce all the paddy required for the consumption of her population, she should increase her local production by 1,64,000 tons per annum, and that if all this increase is to be obtained by the sole process of extension of cultivation, an additional area of 1,64,000 acres of double-crop lands should be brought under the plough. There is no scope for this extensive additional area being made available for cultivation. A conference for the discussion of measures calculated to increase the production of paddy in the State was held under my presidency on the 10th

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